

## **Montana Children's Trust Fund Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2016**

**2401 Colonial Drive, Helena, MT 59601**

**Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

**11:00 AM**

**MT CTF Voting Board members present:** Clementine Lindley (Chair), Leslie Caye (Vice-Chair), Kristina Davis, Ann Gilkey, Joe Raffiani

**Board members absent:** Patty Butler, Thomas Key

**MT CTF Staff members present:** Melissa Lavinder (Recorder, Program Specialist/Technical Assistant), Jamey Petersen (Grant Manager)

**Guests present in Helena:** Bart Klika (MSW, University of Montana, School of Social Work)

1. Board Business
  - Clementine Lindley moved to approve the Needs Assessment Proposal (see next page) as presented. Unanimous oral vote. Motion adopted.
    - Discussion: Cost, Regional child statistics and child abuse and neglect statistics.
2. Fall meeting was not set.
3. No Public Comment
4. Meeting Adjourned at 11:53 AM

# **Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation**

## **Background**

Child maltreatment is an unfortunate reality for too many children across the state of Montana. According to the most recent state statistics, 1,191 Montana children were determined, through official investigation to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2014 (USDHHS, 2015). Many more children are abused and neglect yet never come to the attention of official reporting agencies like child and family services.

The consequences of child abuse and neglect can be severe and long lasting. For example, research shows that children who are maltreated are at increased risk for developing mental health problem, substance use problems, physical health issues, and engage in antisocial or delinquent activities (Herrenkohl et al., 2013; Klika et al., 2013). The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE) demonstrates that early adversity is associated with adulthood physical and mental health problems (Felitti et al., 1998). In fact, adverse childhood experiences, such as abuse and neglect, predict some of the leading causes of death in the United States (e.g., heart disease, cancer, diabetes). Treating the consequences of child maltreatment exacts a financial toll. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that each victim of child abuse and neglect incurs a lifetime cost of nearly \$210,000 in treating the consequences of maltreatment (e.g., juvenile justice, special education, child welfare) (Fang et al., 2011). The mounting evidence on the social and financial impacts of child abuse and neglect has been used to argue for increased efforts to prevent child abuse before it ever occurs.

## **Prevention Framework**

Those subscribing to a public health approach to child maltreatment prevention discuss the timing at which prevention efforts will occur. Tertiary prevention, one of the most common forms, is initiated after child abuse and neglect already occurred. With tertiary prevention, the goal is to stop future maltreatment from occurring and to work on addressing and minimizing the impacts associated with the maltreatment. Secondary prevention works to identify individuals and families at high risk for abuse or neglect, but who have not yet engaged in abusive or neglectful behavior. This form of prevention is often achieved through screening of children and families for the presence of risk factors for child abuse and neglect. Primary prevention is implemented before abuse and neglect ever occur. Such strategies are often applied universally to populations with the goal of mitigating the risk factors for child abuse and neglect.

## **Evaluation**

The goal of the Montana Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Evaluation is to identify/map the current child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives currently in place across the State—with a particular focus on primary and secondary prevention efforts. In addition, the current evaluation project will provide a proposal for future data analysis regarding risk factors and risk populations for child abuse and neglect statewide. Finally, summaries of norms research and policy frameworks will be provided for consideration in future phases of the evaluation project. Below, readers will find a description of the framework guiding the evaluation with a description of the particular activities, deliverables and timeline associated with each goal of the framework. In closing, a tentative budget for the evaluation project is provided.

## Evaluation Framework

All children deserve to live in the context of safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. To that end, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; 2014) developed a flexible framework to guide states and organizations towards the promotion of health and well-being of children. Table 1 outlines the four

**TABLE 1: The Essentials for Childhood Framework**

1. **Goal 1:** Raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments and prevent child maltreatment.
  - a. Adopting the vision of “assuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for every child and preventing child maltreatment.”
  - b. Raising awareness in support of the vision.
  - c. Partnering with key stakeholders to unite behind that vision.
2. **Goal 2:** Use data to inform actions.
  - a. Build a partnership to gather and synthesize relevant data.
  - b. Take stock of existing data.
  - c. Identify and fill critical data gaps.
  - d. Use the data to support other action steps.
3. **Goal 3:** Create the context for healthy children and families through norms change and programs.
  - a. Promote the community norm that we all share responsibility for the well-being of children.
  - b. Promote positive community norms about parenting programs and acceptable parenting behaviors.
  - c. Implement evidence-based programs for parents and caregivers.
4. **Goal 4:** Create the context for healthy children and families through policies.
  - a. Identify and assess which policies may positively impact the lives of children and families in your community.
  - b. Provide decision-makers and community leaders with information on the benefits of evidence-based strategies and rigorous evaluation.

goals of the EfC framework and provides examples of potential actions to achieve these goals.

The proposed evaluation project will use the EfC framework to organize the tasks of the evaluation. For goal 1, the evaluation will identify groups and coalitions (local and statewide) that are working to address issues of early childhood and child abuse prevention. A description of each group/coalition along with their corresponding mission and goals (and contact information) will be provided in the final report to the Trust Fund. In this description will be a detailed account of the key stakeholders in the group/coalition. Second, local and statewide campaigns for child abuse prevention will be identified to understand how prevention messages are being shared with the general public across the State. Third, organizations engaged in primary and secondary child abuse prevention will be identified. Brief explanations of these programs and their corresponding services will be provided in the final report. Particular attention will be given to “evidence-based” programs as identified by national benchmarks and standards (e.g., HomeVee). The work for goal 1 will be completed by the evaluation team by November 2016 and included in a draft report to the Trust Fund. Key informant interviews will be used to understand statewide coalitions and from these key informant interviews, snowball

sampling will be utilized to identify individuals across the state who may be able to provide further information. In addition, the regional administrators for child and family services will be contacted for

assistance in identifying prevention programs across the state. Many, if not all, of these interviews will be conducted over the phone or Skype.

Goal 2 of the evaluation project will focus on creating an analysis plan for the collection, summary, and analysis of current data regarding child abuse and neglect (e.g., risk factors, risk populations) in Montana. Note, for the current phase of the evaluation, no data analysis will be conducted, only an analysis plan. Prior to creating the analysis plan, the evaluation team will meet with members of the Trust Fund to identify particular research questions to be answered through a formal data analysis process. Once the questions are formalized, the evaluation team will identify what data is available for analysis, the particular divisions where the data is housed, and the necessary steps to obtain the data. Included in the analysis plan will be a proposed budget for completing such analyses. A draft of goal 2 will be completed by November 2016.

Goal 3 of the evaluation project is to provide the Trust Fund with a succinct summary of national work regarding the promotion of positive community norms. A proposal for local and statewide community norms surveys will be provided along with a summary of previous surveys conducted in other states (and nationally). This proposal can be used to inform future statewide surveys to assess community norms regarding issues related to child abuse and neglect prevention. Goal 3 will be completed through review of relevant research and consultation with state and national experts on the topic of positive community norms (e.g., Jeff Linkenbach, Jim McKay—WV). The anticipated completion date for goal 3 is November 2016.

Finally, goal 4 will focus on the review of frameworks for reviewing early childhood policies within the State. Specifically, the evaluation team will summarize Zero to Three's self-assessment tool for assessing policies for infants and toddlers. The summary to be included in the evaluation will provide the Trust Fund with a roadmap for completing a statewide policy analysis along with a budget for such work. The anticipated completion date for goal 4 is November 2016.

## **Budget**

Below is a proposed budget to complete the tasks of the evaluation project. These numbers are approximations and would need to be finalized prior to the signing of a final contract:

\$30,000 total:

- \$3,000 indirect costs to the University of Montana (10% of \$30,000)
- \$20,000 salary/fringe and course buyout for the Principal Investigator, Dr. Bart Klika
  - \$14,000 salary
  - \$6,000 fringe (30%)
- \$7,000 research assistant salary and fringe
  - \$6,685 salary (557 hours @ \$12/hour)
  - \$315 fringe (4.5%--allowable for RA's at University)